

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: PROCEDURES FOR IP/LRP

REF: STATE 152208

1. SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN WITH REGARD TO OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR IP/LRP. THE QUESTIONS CONCERN MARRIED PERSONS WHO ARRIVE WITHOUT THEIR SPOUSES, MINORS, AND THE CRITERION OF EMINENCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A BLOCK OF HUMANITARIAN PAROLE NUMBERS ON HAND TO ISSUE TO NEWBORN ADD-ONS. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING OUR VIEWS ON THE WAY WE HOPE A PHASED PROGRAM FOR BOAT AND LAND REFUGEES WILL WORK OVER THE NEXT TEN MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEFINITION OF MARRIED PERSONS: MANY MARRIED REFUGEES ARRIVE IN THAILAND WITHOUT THE SPOUSE. BASED ON EARLIER GUIDANCE (77 STATE 250112), WE HAD CONSIDERED THEM AS SINGLE FOR QUALIFICATION UNDER THE PROGRAM. THE INS OFFICERS CURRENTLY TDY IN ASIA HAVE BEEN HESITANT ABOUT APPROVING SUCH CASES, AND WE BELIEVE CLARIFICATION IN A STATE-INS/CO MESSAGE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. MINORS: FOR BOAT REFUGEE MINORS, WE HAVE NOT BEEN INSISTING
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THAT EVEN A DISTANT RELATIVE EXIST IN THE US. INS OFFICERS LAST WEEK REQUIRED IN SOME INSTANCES THAT SUCH MINORS BE IN THE COMPANY OF A DISTANT RELATIVE OR BE GOING TO JOIN A CLOSE OR DISTANT RELATIVE IN THE US. AUSTRALIA, THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY WITH A SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM FOR BOAT REFUGEES, TAKES NO UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE UNDER 18 WHO HAS NO RELATIVES IN AUSTRALIA. THIS NEW INS STANCE COULD THUS LEAD TO THE PROLONGED STAY OR ABANDONMENT

IN THE BOAT CAMPS OF THESE MINORS.

4. ADDITION OF EMINENCE CRITERION: IN EARLIER ERSIONS OF CATEGORY III CRITERIA, THERE HAS BEEN A PROVISION FOR REFUGEES OF EMINENCE. THIS CRITERION IS ABSENT FROM REFTEL. THERE IS THUS NO ROOM FOR THE OCCASIONAL ARTIST OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL WHO DOES NOT OTHERWISE QUALIFY.

5. PHASING OF BAOT REFUGEES: REFTEL INDICATES THAT THAILAND WILL HAVE A LEAST 2500 NUMBERS FOR BOAT REFUGEES. BANGKOK 18064 REQUESTED 395 NUMBERS FOR INS APPROVED BOAT REFUGEES. AT LEAST 2015 NUMBERS REMAIN TO BE ALLOCATED. REQUEST THAT A ROUNDED FIGURE OF AT LEAST 210 NUMBERS PER MONTH BE RESERVED FOR BOAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND DURING THE REMAINING 10 MONTHS OF LRP FROM JULY 1978 THROUGH APRIL 1979.

6. HUMANITARIAN NUMBERS FOR NEWBORN LAND AND BOAT BABIES: IN ORDER TO PERMIT PROMPT DEPARTURE OF INS APPROVED FAMILIES WITH NEWBORN BABIES, AND IN ORDER TO CONSERVE IP/LRP NUMBERS, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS A SPECIAL BLOCK OF HUMANITARIAN PAROLE NUMBERS WHICH COULD BE ASSIGNED AS NEEDED TO BABIES. BASED ON PAST PROGRAMS, WE ESTIMATE THAT WE WOULD ISSUE 25-30 NUMBERS A MONTH. PRESENTLY ABOUT 110 IPP-77 APPROVED PERSONS (19 FAMILIES) ARE IN CASES WHICH HAVE BABIES WHO LACK NUMBERS. A PRECEDENT FOR SUCH A BLOCK OF A-NUMBERS SPECIFICALLY FOR BABY ADD-ONS WAS ESTABLISHED BY CABLE 76 STATE 17806 (JANUARY 1976). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHASING OF IPP/LRP: AFTER THE INITIAL ALLOCATION OF 5000 LAND REFUGEE NUMBERS, WE PROPOSE THAT STARTING IN AUGUST WE MOVE TO A SYSTEM OF MONTH-BY-MONTH ACCEPTANCE. THIS SYSTEM, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD BE APPLIED AS FOLLOWS: DURING AUGUST 1978, WE WOULD CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FROM ALL THOSE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN UNHCR-SUPPORTED CAMPS THROUGH 31 AUGUST 1977, OR WHO RECEIVED CATEGORY I ELIGIBILITY FROM A REFUGEE RELATIVE WHO ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES BY THAT DATE. IN SEPTEMBER 1978, WE WOULD PRESENT TO INS THOSE QUALIFIED REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED THROUGH 30 SEPTEMBER 1977, EXCEPT FOR APRIL 1979, WHERE THE CUT OFF DATE WOULD ADVANCE 2 1/2 MONTHS TO 14 JUNE 1978, THE SYSTEM WOULD THEN FOLLOW WITH REFUGEES HAVING TO MEET A MINIMUM WAITING TIME OF 12 MONTHS BEFORE THEY CAN FIRST BE CONSIDERED FOR PRESENTATION TO INS.

8. OFTEN WE DO NOT HAVE A RELIABLE CAMP ARRIVAL DATE. WHEN WE CANNOT VERIFY THAT DATE, WE WILL RELY ON THE ARRIVAL DATE IN A THAI DETENTION FACILITY, THE REGISTRATION DATE WITH THE UNHCR, OR THE ARRIVAL DATE IN THAILAND. CAT I ELIGIBILITY WOULD BE DETERMINED BY EITHER (A) DATE OF CAMP ENTRANCE OR (B) DATE OF ARRIVAL OF ANCHOR IN US, WHICHEVER DATE IS MOST RECENT.

9. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF LAND REFUGEES WHO WOULD BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PRESENTATION TO INS EACH MONTH UNDER A SYSTEM SUCH AS THE ABOVE. PRE-SCREENING CARDS HAVE BEEN FILED HERE BY NAME RATHER THAN BY DATE OF ARRIVAL. WE HAVE JUST INITIATED AN EXACT COUNT BY MONTH, BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE. THE EMBASSY HOPES TO RETAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING THE PHASING SYSTEM. SHOULD THE MONTH-BY-MONTH APPROACH NOT BE SATISFACTORY, WE MAY RECOMMEND MOVING TO A BI-MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY TRANCHE.

10. FLEXIBILITY OF MONTHLY INS APPROVAL ALLOCATIONS: OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE APPLICATION OF THE MONTHLY QUOTAS OF INS APPROVALS IS VITAL. IN OTHER WORDS, IF LOCAL CONDITIONS DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMIT COMPLETION OF INS INTERVIEWING IN THE FIELD PRIOR TO THE LAST DAY OF A GIVEN MONTH, INTERVIEWING WOULD CONTINUE INTO THE FOLLOWING MONTH UNTIL THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S QUOTA IS FILLED. THEN WHEN THESE INTERVIEWS ARE FINISHED, INS WOULD COMMENCE INTERVIEWS FOR THE NEW MONTH'S QUOTA. BECAUSE THERE ARE 13 WIDELY DISPERSED INLAND CAMPS, WE SHOULD AVOID A DEADLINE RUSH AT THE END OF EACH MONTH.

11. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INS APPROVALS: WE WOULD ASSUME THAT, OTHER THAN A MONTHLY REPORT OF APPROVALS AND A BREAKDOWN BY ETHNIC GROUP AND CATEGORY, NO TRACKING OF INDIVIDUAL A-NUMBERS BY MONTH OF ISSUANCE WILL BE REQUIRED. WE WILL - FOR GENERAL STATISTICAL PURPOSES - TREAT ALL INS LAND APPROVALS AS PART OF THE OVERALL 12,500 NUMBERS. INS COULD PROVIDE A SEPARATE SERIES OF A-NUMBERS FOR EACH MONTH'S APPROVALS, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS DEVICE NECESSARY OR HELPFUL. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HAVE MORE A-NUMBERS AVAILABLE LOCALLY FOR ANY GIVEN ALLOCATION TO PERMIT QUICKER CANCELLATION AND REASSIGNMENT OF A-NUMBERS. WE WOULD OF COURSE TAKE CARE TO AVOID EXCEEDING THE ALLOCATION LIMIT AND WOULD REPORT MONTHLY NUMBERS ALLOCATED. BANGKOK 18065 REQUESTED A SUBSTANTIAL BLOCK OF A-NUMBERS.

12. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) STATE-INS/CO GUIDANCE THAT A MARRIED REFUGEE WHO ESCAPES WITHOUT HIS SPOUSE IS CONSIDERED SINGLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM.

(B) STATE-INS/CO GUIDANCE TO ACCEPT MINORS AMONG BOAT REFUGEES REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE RELATIVES WITH THEM IN THE CAMP OR WILLING TO CARE FOR THEM IN THE UNITED STATES.

(C) STATE-INS/CO AGREEMENT TO ADD AN EMINENCE CRITERION.
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(D) FROM JULY 1978 THROUGH APRIL 1979, RESERVATION FOR THAILAND
OF AT LEAST 210 BOAT NUMBERS EACH MONTH, BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE
ISSUANCE OF 395 BOAT NUMBERS REQUESTED IN BANGKOK 18064

(E) ISSUANCE OF A BLOCK OF HUMANITARIAN PAROLE NUMBERS TO THAILAND
FOR BABY ADD-ONS.

(F) ADOPTION OF THE PHASING AND FLEXIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS
IN PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 10 ABOVE FOR INLAND REFUGEES.
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